(c) Air Taxies are already operating passenger services to airports in Gujarat like Rajkpt, Bhavnagar, Baroda and An-medabad' on charter|non-Scheduled basjs. They ars free" to carry cargo. They can carry mail also subject to agreement with their clients.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED BY ITDC HOTELS

*3081. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the, Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the year, by different Hotels under ITDC;

*(b) whether it is a fact that these Hotels are not getting direct business from the erstwhile USSR and whether those foreigners are being offered heavy cuts on tariff rate through different travel agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) ITDC hotels had earned direct foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 692.22 lakhs upto October, 1993 of the current financial year 1993-94. :

*(b) and (c) Since tourist traffic from CIS countries generally comes through Indian travel agents|tour operators, ITDC has to offer special rates and discounts to the travel agents depending upon various faptors like volume of business, prevail ing" season etc.

PROPOSALS FOR BETTER CARGO SERVICE BY IA

3082. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whetiier it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to take some measures 'to provide better Cargo Service within and outside India in the.near future^

(b) if so, the details thereof separately for within and outside the country;

(c) whether some objectives are behind these measures: *,

(d) if so, the details thereof with esti-mated, earning of foreign exchange with such measures; and

(e) if not, teasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the main steps being taken by Indian Airlines to provide better cargo services :— *Domestic :*

_Introduction of bulk and commodity cargo rates.

—> Working on the prospects of computerising cargo movement.

— Intimating consignees through RAPID system immediately on arrival for quick delivery.

—To provide better covered areas to save corgo from the vagaries of weather.

— Introduction of an Express Cargo Service guaranteeing delivery of cargo within 24 hours of selected routes.

Outside India :

In addition to the steps taken tor domestic cat go as stated above, Indian Airlines selects agents who are equipped with better handling facilities outside India.

(c) and (d) The objective behind these neasures is to increase revenue from argo : since the schemes have been recently introduced, it is difficult to quantify he additional revenue directly attributable o these steps.

(e) Does not arise.